

Celebration of Leadership

A TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

2006

Title Sponsor:
BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF FLORIDA



Celebration of Leadership

A TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

2006

Thursday, October 19, 2006

Omni Jacksonville Hotel

6:00 p.m. – Reception

7:00 p.m. – Dinner

WELCOME



CHERYL CROFT
2006 TRIBUTE CHAIR

"Tribute allows us the opportunity to recognize the efforts of business, volunteer and philanthropic leaders who have made significant contributions to their organizations and our community. In addition, we are able to recognize our 'Rising Stars' who are making positive contributions and continue to demonstrate outstanding potential within our programs. Finally, we are ever grateful for your support of Community Connections of Jacksonville and for allowing us to continue to provide these much-needed services in our community."

Community Connections of Jacksonville has supported women, children and families continuously since 1911. Providing help to the homeless, disadvantaged and at-risk individuals, Community Connections works to rebuild self-esteem and help people become independent and self-sufficient.

By providing safe, quality child care and after-school programs, children have the opportunity to spend time in nurturing environments that encourage learning, good citizenship and important life skills they'll need as they grow.

Community Connections is there for at-risk parents and teaches them the skills they need to raise their babies and children in a healthy, positive and loving way. They offer literacy classes to overcome issues that stand between the people they help and a secure future. And they help men and women get the instruction they need to pass GED exams and provide career counseling to help them get good jobs. And, because many in need represent a multitude of ethnicities speaking many different languages, they help break down the barriers that stand in the way of a productive future.

MISSION STATEMENT

Based on our belief in the dignity and resilience of the human spirit, the mission of Community Connections of Jacksonville is to assemble resources and partner with community organizations to strengthen families.

The "Celebration of Leadership-A Tribute to Excellence" encourages companies and individuals to honor business, volunteer and philanthropic leaders, as well as the opportunity to honor young leaders who demonstrate outstanding leadership potential. Jacksonville is fortunate to boast many community stewards, inspiring, motivating and committed people giving back to our community. We are privileged to recognize their efforts and achievements.

We appreciate the generous support of all who have contributed to this evening's success and thank them for providing us with the resources that allow Community Connections of Jacksonville to improve the lives of women, children and families in need.

Celebration of Leadership

A TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

October 19, 2006

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Charlene Shirk, Anchor, First Coast News

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS VIDEO

INVOCATION

The Rev. Anne Bridgers

D I N N E R

INTRODUCTION OF HONOREES & HONOREE VIDEOS

Cheryl Croft, Chair, 2006 Tribute

INTRODUCTION OF HONORARY CHAIR, MAYOR JOHN PEYTON

*Patricia I. Hannan, Executive Director/CEO
Community Connections of Jacksonville*

PRESENTATION OF THE FLORENCE N. DAVIS AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Mayor John Peyton & Florence N. Davis

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mayor John Peyton

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Martha Barrett, Vice President, Bank of America;
Member, Duval County School Board*

RECOGNITION OF ALL HONOREES

David Sillick, Publisher, The Jacksonville Business Journal

CLOSING REMARKS

Charlene Shirk

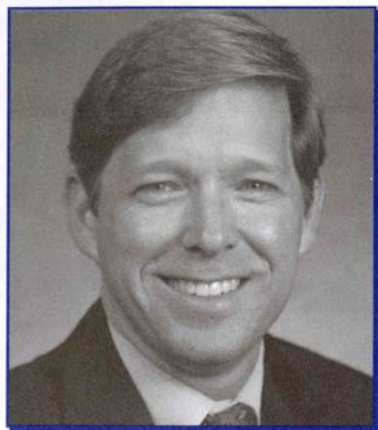
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VIDEOS PRODUCED BY DIGITAL VIDEO ARTS

Business Journal

HONORARY CHAIR 2006



MAYOR JOHN PEYTON

"For almost 100 years, Community Connections has developed resourceful strategies and community partnerships to meet the needs of disadvantaged women, children and families and has provided essential support services to our community. I am particularly pleased to be a part of this occasion because it honors my good friend Martha Barrett, who is also a great friend to our city!"

MAYOR JOHN PEYTON

Sworn in as Mayor of Jacksonville on July 1, 2003, Mayor Peyton has brought a business mentality to Jacksonville's city government, streamlining operations and implementing best practices from the private sector. His term has been noted for his commitment to growing good jobs for Jacksonville's citizens, drafting a blueprint to increase the City's per capita income, supporting our local military community, enhancing public safety, taking our park system from the biggest to the best and addressing the challenges of growth management.

Prior to his election, the Jacksonville native served as Vice President of Gate Petroleum Company, one of the largest privately held corporations in Florida. Mayor Peyton has been actively involved in community service for many years, serving on the transition team of former Mayor John Delaney and on the boards of a number of civic and charitable organizations. He is a former chairman of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority - where he played an integral part in the development and early implementation of the Better Jacksonville Plan - the Jacksonville Symphony Association and Greenscape of Jacksonville.

Mayor Peyton is an alumnus of Mercer University and the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program, as well as a graduate of both Leadership Jacksonville and Leadership Florida. He and his wife, Jacksonville physician Kathryn Pearson Peyton, are members of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral and the proud parents of a son, John Connor Peyton.

2006 TRIBUTE SPONSORS

TITLE SPONSOR

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PLATINUM PATRONS

Mayo Clinic
Memorial Hospital Jacksonville

GOLD PATRONS

Baptist Health
Community Hospice of NE Florida
Digital Video Arts
Jacksonville Association of Fire Fighters
Miller Electric Company
PRI Productions
Prudential Financial
St. Vincent's
WJCT, Inc.

SILVER HONORING THREE RISING STARS

TAPESOUTH, Inc.

SILVER PATRONS

J. Johnson Gallery
Jacksonville Greyhound Racing
Bacardi Bottling Corporation
Kuhn's Florist

TABLE PATRONS

AmSouth
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Bank of America
BellSouth
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Durden Family Foundation
Duval County Public Schools
EverBank of Florida
Florida Community College Jacksonville
Harden & Associates, Richard Pierpont & Michael Richard
Health America Credit Union
Jacksonville Regional Chamber
of Commerce
LandMar Group/Monique Burr Foundation
The Milne Family
The Stellar Group
Wachovia

RISING STAR PATRONS

CCJ Board Group: Matt Breuer, Susan Burns, Tami Jones,
Mary McElroy and Brenda Titus
Dr. & Mrs. George H. Dorion
John, Linda & Laura Franklin
Stephen Franklin
Jim & Susan Main
Perdue Office Interiors, Inc.
Mary Ellen Smith
The Levendittison Family
The Vestcor Companies
VyStar Credit Union
Waste Management Charitable Foundation

BRONZE PATRONS

Copytronics Information Services
Toni Crawford
Gate Petroleum Company
Marks Gray, PA/Kathy & Jerry Weedon
Sir Speedy Printing-Downtown
Supreme Janitorial Service
The Florida Times-Union
UNF Music Department/Charlotte Mabrey
Weaver Family Foundation

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

King Provision Company
United Parcel Service

Business
JACKSONVILLE
Journal

THE FLORENCE N. DAVIS AWARD



FLORENCE N. DAVIS

Like the force of a gently flowing river, Florence N. Davis has brought her encompassing strength and vision to every community service organization with which she has been involved. She has touched the lives of people who have needed her, and she has truly made a difference. For her work and dedication, for her strength, and for her vision, this award is named in her honor.



VIOLET B. WHITAKER
1993



DR. FRANCES B. KINNE
1994



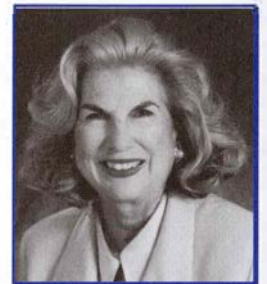
DELORES KESLER
1995



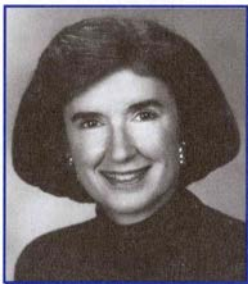
JEAN LUDLOW
1996



DORIS N. CARSON
1997



PAMELA Y. "PAM" PAUL
1998



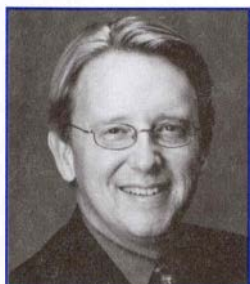
TILLIE KIDD FOWLER
1999



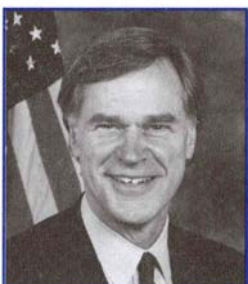
BETTY HOLZENDORF
2000



DOLORES WEAVER
2001



JOHN DELANEY
2002



ANDER CRENSHAW
2003



DOTTIE DORION
2004



ROBERT W. HELMS
2005

FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Community Connections is proud to honor long-time friend and supporter, Martha Barrett, as the 2006 recipient of the Florence N. Davis Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Ms. Barrett has been a visible and effective community leader and has served as the Vice President of Market Development for Bank of America since 2001. In addition, she is currently serving her second term as an elected member of the Duval County School Board.

Ms. Barrett's career has prepared her for both of her current roles. Her interest in politics and commitment to public service is evidenced by her previous positions as Field Director for Jimmy Carter during his bid for the presidency; Public Affairs Director for the National Fire Administration in Washington, D.C. and Press Aide and advisor to former Jacksonville Mayor, Jake Godbold.

Prior to joining Bank of America, Ms. Barrett served as the Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs for Independent Life Insurance Company and as a Consultant and Manager of Business Development for the Jim King Companies.

Ms. Barrett has been recognized by many groups for her community involvement, including the Gateway Girl Scouts Council, Leadership Jacksonville and the First Coast Manufacturers Association, to name just a few. She is active with the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, where she serves on the Government Affairs Committee; the FCCJ Foundation Board; Leadership Florida, where she serves as Regional Chairman; the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Board and the Women's Giving Alliance Steering Committee, among others.

A political science graduate of Maryville College in St. Louis, MO, Ms. Barrett received her Masters in Education from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH.



MARTHA BARRETT

VICE PRESIDENT,
BANK OF AMERICA
MEMBER, DUVAL COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD

"Martha Barrett has proven to be a very effective community trustee.

She was a top aide in my administration and she has always been a tireless volunteer for many notable causes.

There is no one who possesses a more universal knowledge of this great city. Her passion for enhancing the quality of life for all of our citizens is unquestioned.

Jacksonville is a better city today because of passionate citizens like Martha Barrett."

THE HONORABLE JAKE GODBOLD,
FORMER MAYOR,
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

2006 HONOREES

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BECKY GAY

VICE PRESIDENT, SHARED SERVICES

PLATINUM PATRONS

MAYO CLINIC JACKSONVILLE HONORS

DR. JERALD H. PIETAN

DIRECTOR OF MAMMOGRAPHY

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OF JACKSONVILLE HONORS

RICHARD SHANNONHOUSE

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES, MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OF JACKSONVILLE

GOLD PATRONS

PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL SERVICES HONORS

CARRIE L. DAVIS

VICE PRESIDENT, HOUSING PARTNERSHIP OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

BAPTIST HEALTH HONORS

CATHERINE GRAHAM

DIRECTOR OF GUEST SERVICES, BAPTIST HEALTH

JACKSONVILLE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS HONORS

JERRY HOLLAND

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

COMMUNITY HOSPICE HONORS

GENE H. LEWIS

BOARD MEMBER & PATIENT/FAMILY VOLUNTEER

DIGITAL VIDEO ARTS HONORS

VIRGINIA NORTON

ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL, CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

ST. VINCENT'S HEALTH SYSTEM HONORS

MARY ALICE PHELAN

DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS

MILLER ELECTRIC COMPANY HONORS

LINDA SPARKS

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACADEMIES OF ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY

PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL HONORS CARRIE L. DAVIS

Carrie Davis, a native of Jacksonville, has been working to improve communities and the quality of lives of families in Northeast Florida for over 11 years. Carrie believes that the strength of a community is the social fabric that surrounds it.

In 1996, Carrie started an after-school homework assistance program in the Pine Forest neighborhood. Project Upward and Beyond began as a grassroots program with 25 students, funded primarily by Carrie. It is now a comprehensive after-school program with an annual budget of \$250,000, providing services to approximately 250 students and providing jobs for local residents.

After five years with the Housing Partnership of Northeast Florida, Carrie was recently promoted to Vice-President of the organization. The Housing Partnership's mission of "facilitating community-development by offering a range of services to provide access to safe and affordable housing to low-and-moderate income families of Northeast Florida" is also a personal mission to which Carrie is committed.

Carrie's advocacy to ensure that every citizen has access to quality housing and healthy communities has resulted in millions of dollars of improvements. Most recently, Carrie's efforts resulted in the completion of a multi-million dollar infrastructure project in the Pine Forest neighborhood, alleviating a health risk for the residents.

Carrie has three children: Shantez, Kristen and Tracy Jr. She attends Wayman Chapel AME Church, where she volunteers her time as youth counselor for elementary age children. She also volunteers as a facilitator for the City of Jacksonville's Strengthening Families Initiative.

PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL

Prudential Financial companies, with approximately \$532 billion in total assets under management as of December 31, 2005, serve individual and institutional customers worldwide and include The Prudential Insurance Company of America, one of the largest life insurance companies in the United States. These companies offer a variety of products and services, including life insurance, mutual funds, annuities, pension and retirement-related services and administration, asset management, banking and trust services, real estate brokerage franchises, relocation services and, through a joint venture, retail securities brokerage services. For more information, visit www.prudential.com.



CARRIE L. DAVIS
VICE PRESIDENT,
HOUSING PARTNERSHIP OF
NORTHEAST FLORIDA

"Prudential Financial is proud to recognize Carrie Davis as an outstanding leader in Jacksonville. Carrie truly is a friend to all and an inspiration to many. She is known in the community as the 'go to' person when you really need something done to improve a neighborhood. Her dedication to making a difference in the lives of the people she touches is exemplary. Her positive attitude, can do spirit and 'spark plug' energy continually enhances the quality of life for residents throughout NE Florida."

PAT BRZOZOWSKI,
REGIONAL COMMUNITY AFFAIRS MANAGER,
PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF FLORIDA HONORS

BECKY GAY



BECKY GAY

VICE PRESIDENT OF
SHARED SERVICES,
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE
SHIELD OF FLORIDA'S
SERVICE ORGANIZATION

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida is proud to recognize Becky Gay as one of our city's outstanding leaders. Becky's commitment to influencing positive change in our community and our company speaks highly of her desire to serve and inspire others. As a member of our service leadership team, we rely on Becky's experience and expertise to help us deliver on our promise to provide caring solutions to Floridians. I'm delighted to see Becky recognized for her commitment and service to others."

DARNELL SMITH,
GROUP VICE PRESIDENT
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF FLORIDA
SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Becky Gay is Vice President of Shared Services for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's Service Organization. She has been with BCBSF for more than 25 years during which time she has been involved in leading work efforts focused on establishing provider networks to support new products, medical and administrative cost savings initiatives, and most recently creating a framework for continuous improvement using the Six Sigma methodology for the service organization.

She served as co-chair of the company's Women's Interactive Network affinity group from 2004 to 2006, she also co-chaired BCBSF's 2005 United Way campaign. She is a board member of the Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida and a member of the planning committee for the Speaking of Women's Health symposium.

Becky is an active volunteer in the community. She was recently appointed to the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. She has served on United Way's resource management committee for health education, and is currently a member of United Way's Life Act II Partnership Council and the chairperson for the Bridging Elder Care Networks initiative. She is also a member of the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society and active in the Douglas Anderson Vocal Boosters.

Becky earned her B.A. in Communications from Florida Atlantic University and her M.B.A. from Jacksonville University.

In her spare time Becky enjoys jogging, reading, spending time at the beach and relaxing with friends, family and her daughter, Tessa.

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF FLORIDA

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) is proud to support Community Connections of Jacksonville. For more than six decades, BCBSF has been dedicated to providing the people of Florida with caring solutions designed to protect their health and well-being. Today, BCBSF and its subsidiaries serve more than 8 million people.

We take our responsibility as a corporate citizen seriously and support a wide variety of programs and services that enhance the lives of the people who live in our communities. We seek ways to expand health care through affordable choices and we encourage our employees to help us reach out to those in need throughout Florida.

BAPTIST HEALTH HONORS CATHERINE GRAHAM

Catherine Graham, Director of Guest Services for Baptist Health, is someone who derives her greatest satisfaction through service. She joined the health system in 1998 and was immediately drawn to the role of educating staff regarding service excellence.

Graham successfully developed and delivered the system-wide Patient Experience Training. She manages patient satisfaction measurement and works to improve even the highest ratings with measures such as GetWellNetwork®, which provides Internet access, and movies-on-demand in patient rooms. She routinely joins rounds on units, asking questions, problem solving or simply providing an ear.

Her role with the Emergency Department Impact Team is hands-on; on any given day, she can be found handing out pillows to those waiting in the Emergency Center, stopping to speak to families in the hallways, fielding concerns of patients or sharing compliments with staff.

Graham serves on the Magnet Steering Council and the Senior Leadership Impact Team, chairs the Grievance Committee for Baptist Downtown and the Wayfinding Committee for the entire health system. Her strong commitment to patients and staff, coupled with great skill and competence, distinguishes Graham as a gifted educator and person with a passion for serving others.

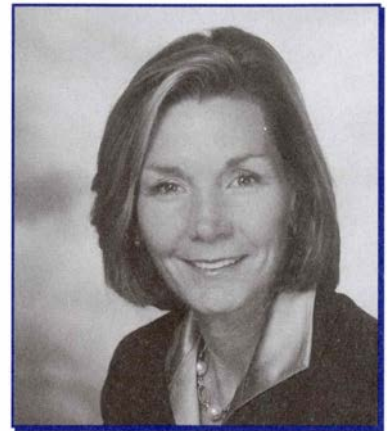
Active in the community, she serves on the board of Guardian Ad Litem, the American Heart Association Heart Ball committee and is a member of the Duval County Coalition Against Tobacco.

Graham has served as deacon, Vacation Bible School director, Sunday school teacher and member of the Pastoral Search Committee for Mandarin Presbyterian Church.

Her three boys keep her busy as a football team mom, homeroom parent, chair of Spring Fling and involvement in the Annual Fund Raising Gala.

BAPTIST HEALTH FOUNDATION

Founded in 1985, the Baptist Health Foundation supports current and future community health care needs through philanthropy and fund-raising, helping assure Baptist Health facilities the latest in medical specialties, technology and equipment. Governed by a board of trustees, it is supported by hundreds of dedicated volunteers and donors. In the last two years alone, the Foundation has raised more than \$30 million in support of current and future community health care needs.



CATHERINE GRAHAM
DIRECTOR OF GUEST SERVICES,
BAPTIST HEALTH

"Catherine Graham personifies the mission and values of Baptist Health on a daily basis. She serves as a model for service excellence as a gifted educator and someone with a passion for others. She is recognized as a leader in our health system and in our community."

JOHN F. WILBANKS,
FACHE
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
BAPTIST HEALTH

JACKSONVILLE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS HONORS

JERRY HOLLAND



JERRY HOLLAND
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

"The Jacksonville Association of Fire Fighters is proud to recognize Jerry Holland as one of Jacksonville's outstanding leaders. Jerry has served the Jacksonville community for a number of years, as a member of the City Council and now as the Supervisor of Elections, and has done so with distinction and honor. He always puts the needs of Jacksonville's citizens first and, because of that, he is one of the most respected officials in our city government. There are politicians and there are statesmen. Jerry Holland is a statesman."

JIM CROFT,
SECRETARY-TREASURER
JACKSONVILLE ASSOCIATION
OF FIRE FIGHTERS

Jerry Holland was elected Supervisor of Elections for Duval County in March 2005.

Holland helped establish early voting sites for each of the 14 City Council districts. He has also secured touch-screen voting machines with audio capabilities for each of the 285 precincts to assist voters with special needs and has made all 285 precincts ADA accessible.

In his first year, Holland registered over 3,300 students in a voter registration drive and has completed assessing the distribution and location of precincts throughout Duval County to more evenly allocate the number of registered voters per precinct.

Holland served on the Jacksonville City Council from 1999 until assuming his current position. During his first term in office, he served on all seven standing committees and as President of the Council during the 2002-2003 Council year. He brought the Council through important issues including the implementation of JaxCare, the pilot program for the uninsured working poor and bringing about a successful resolution of the Comcast negotiation, which included the community obtaining a new fire rescue boat.

Holland is associated with important pieces of legislation including the re-writing of the Animal Control laws and providing an additional \$25,000 of homestead exemptions for low income seniors. He also initiated the bill that resulted in the purchase of thermal image cameras for all fire stations allowing rescue personnel to find citizens in burning buildings.

Jerry earned a Master's degree in Education and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Transportation and Logistics from the University of North Florida. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Data Processing from Jones College.

Jerry and his wife, Beverly, have one son, Brian married to Kylie and are active members of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville.

JACKSONVILLE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

The Jacksonville Association of Fire Fighters represents the men and women who provide the citizens of Jacksonville with fire, disaster, and emergency medical services.

COMMUNITY HOSPICE HONORS

GENE H. LEWIS

"This is what the Lord intended me to do." That's how Gene Lewis describes her passion for hospice care and explains the more than 20 years she has given in volunteer service to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida.

Gene received her nursing degree from Duke University. In 1978, she had the opportunity to join a fledgling group of volunteers-the Friends of Hospice-who were starting a hospice program in Northeast Florida. Gene was named president of the Friends of Hospice board.

In 1979, the goal became reality when Hospice of Northeast Florida (now Community Hospice of Northeast Florida) was incorporated and established as a nonprofit hospice provider. Gene remained an active member of the board from 1978 through 1985 when she took a hiatus from board duties. In 1990, she returned to serve on the board and has remained ever since.

In addition to her board duties, Gene has tirelessly given of her time and energy in many ways to the Community Hospice organization and to the patients and families served. Early on, Gene provided direct nursing support to patients as a volunteer nurse. She also helped coordinate patient care and volunteer training for the organization and, in recent years, has been an active patient and family volunteer.

Gene has also served as the president of the Board of the Visiting Nurse Association. In 1992 and 1993, she organized "Shoo the Flu" to provide free flu shots at nearly 50 Winn-Dixie stores in Northeast Florida. Gene mobilized a team of more than 100 volunteers resulting in thousands of local residents receiving inoculations.

Gene's passion for hospice care and for the patients and families served by Community Hospice is best described through the words of a family member of a patient she cared for, "You are indeed a very special lady, a wonderful friend and truly a blessing to all who know you."

COMMUNITY HOSPICE

Established in 1979 as the first hospice program in Northeast Florida, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida provides compassionate care to nearly 1,000 patients daily in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties, through the support of more than 700 employees and 1,100 volunteers. The organization has served more than 38,000 children and adults-at home, in long-term care facilities, hospitals and through its two inpatient facilities in Jacksonville. Community Hospice Foundation generates philanthropic and community support for indigent hospice care, programs and services through the Charles M. Neviasser Educational Institute and Community PedsCare, a pediatric palliative and hospice program. Care is available to all patients who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.



GENE H. LEWIS

COMMUNITY HOSPICE BOARD
MEMBER & VOLUNTEER

"Community Hospice is here today because of the efforts of Gene Lewis and a small group of volunteers who breathed life into our mission of improving the quality of life for people in our community at the end of their lives. Gene has been with us every step along the way as we have grown from an eight patient census to caring for more than 1,000 patients every day. She has touched our lives and the lives of countless patients and families in our community, and we are all far better for it."

SUSAN PONDER-STANSEL,
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
COMMUNITY HOSPICE
OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

DIGITAL VIDEO ARTS HONORS

VIRGINIA NORTON



VIRGINIA NORTON
ASSISTANT GENERAL
COUNSEL,
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

*"I have seen firsthand
Virginia's knowledge,
leadership and integrity.
It is time for Virginia to be a
Duval County Court Judge."*

JOHN DELANEY,
FORMER JACKSONVILLE MAYOR AND
CHIEF ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

*"Virginia is the most qualified
candidate for Duval County
Court Judge. She is a tough,
smart, dedicated attorney."*

ED AUSTIN,
FORMER JACKSONVILLE MAYOR AND
STATE ATTORNEY

Virginia Norton serves as an Assistant General Counsel for the City of Jacksonville and is currently on the campaign trail, preparing to serve as our next Duval County Court Judge, Group 17. The roots of her legal career began at age 19 as an intern at the Office of the State Attorney. Since then she has been gaining valuable legal and practical experience to assume this vital role in our community.

Ask Virginia how long she has aspired to be a judge and she will tell you, "Since my early teenage years when I earned my first paycheck."

She completed her undergraduate requirements at the University of Virginia, where she attained one of the institution's highest honors - head resident on the lawn. Upon graduating from the University of Florida Law School, she entered private practice before working for the General Counsel's office under Rick Mullaney.

Virginia has excelled in her legal profession. She is a Special Hearing Master for the City of Jacksonville where she has already presided over more than 100 hearings and made the tough decisions that affect our community. She has also been recommended by the Fourth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission for a gubernatorial judicial appointment, preceding her decision to run for an elected position.

During this time, Virginia's commitment to the community has remained strong. She is involved in the Wolfson Children's Hospital Board, Community Connections Leadership Council and Girls, Inc. She is also a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, among her many other accomplishments.

Virginia is equally dedicated to her profession and her community. She is a public servant to the highest degree and looks forward to the opportunity to continue her leadership role as a Duval County Court Judge.

DIGITAL VIDEO ARTS

Digital Video Arts is Jacksonville's largest television and film production and post-production company. With national and local expertise in corporate communications, television commercials, broadcast programming and marketing videos, the talented and creative editors and artists at DVA are proud to salute this year's honorees.

ST. VINCENT'S HONORS MARY ALICE PHELAN

Mary Alice Phelan, daughter of the late Harriet and Bill Barrett, and sister of Martha Barrett, is a life-long resident of Jacksonville, who graduated from Assumption Catholic Grade School and Bishop Kenny High School. She received her undergraduate degree in political science from Trinity University in Washington, D.C., and her Masters in government from Florida State University. While at Florida State, Mary Alice had an assistantship as a counselor in a freshman dorm. It was this experience coupled with summers as a camp counselor in North Carolina that helped prepare her for her next career.

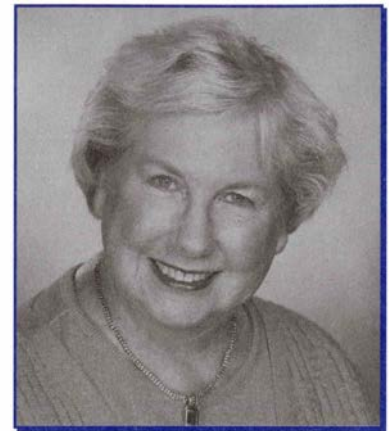
In October, 1966, Mary Alice married Bill Phelan, an ob-gyn who was a widower with eleven children. They had one child, Pauline Brown. Mary Alice was a wife, mother and volunteer concentrating her efforts on St. Matthew's School, Girl Scouts, the League of Women Voters, the City of Jacksonville, and the Downtown Development Authority.

Following Bill's death in 1984, Mary Alice established the Community Relations Department at St. Vincent's Health System. It is her responsibility to advocate for the Mission and Values of St. Vincent's to the community. This is accomplished through government relations, special events and activities and the nationally recognized Mobile Health Outreach Ministry.

Mary Alice continues to be involved in civic affairs on the state and local level. She served on and chaired the Florida Commission on Ethics, is a past president of the Jacksonville Women's Network, currently chairs the Northeast Florida KidCare Steering Committee, the City of Jacksonville Ethics Commission and is treasurer of OneJax. Mary Alice is a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville and Leadership Florida and a member of the Rotary of South Jacksonville.

ST. VINCENT'S

St. Vincent's is a 528-bed acute care hospital that cares for more than 25,000 inpatients each year, about 50,000 patients for outpatient surgery and invasive procedures and more than 60,000 people in its Emergency Room. St. Vincent's is home to the area's largest cardiovascular program. Its heart program was named one of "America's Best Hospitals" in the category of Heart and Heart Surgery by U.S. News & World Report in 2005 and 2003. St. Vincent's is also home to a cancer program that provides medical treatment for more Jacksonville cancer patients than any other in the area. The medical center was recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as a Distinguished Hospital in 2004 for providing "An Outstanding Patient Experience." St. Vincent's is a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system.



MARY ALICE PHELAN
DIRECTOR/COMMUNITY RELATIONS,
ST. VINCENT'S

"For more than two decades at St. Vincent's, Mary Alice Phelan has been showing all of us what it really means to be an advocate for this community. Whether she's putting together partnerships with organizations that share our mission, working with elected officials or guiding St. Vincent's Mobile Health units - she has one very basic focus. Mary Alice Phelan finds causes that are just and worthy and doesn't stop until she knows she's made a difference that will help people who need it most."

JOHN MAHER,
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
ST. VINCENT'S

MAYO CLINIC HONORS DR. JERALD H. PIETAN



DR. JERALD H. PIETAN

DIRECTOR OF
MAMMOGRAPHY,
MAYO CLINIC JACKSONVILLE

"It is rare indeed for a hospital, a museum, a symphony, two university art departments and individual artists to be at the same table working towards the same mission. Dr. Pietan is a true champion of the concept of arts in medicine, putting the soul back into healthcare."

HOPE MCMATH,
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,
THE CUMMER MUSEUM OF ART AND GARDENS

Jerald H. Pietan, M.D. is a Radiologist and past chair of the Radiology Department at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. He is currently the director of Mammography and Assistant Professor of Radiology at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

In 2001, he became the Chair of Mayo's Humanities in Medicine Committee in Jacksonville. In this role, he provided leadership for Mayo Clinic's vision of integrating the arts, history and ethics into the medical environment in support of Mayo's fundamental principle: the needs of the patient come first. Through its humanities programs, Mayo has hosted local, national and international artists for patients, their caregivers and the community. Dr. Pietan was instrumental in establishing the Humanities in Medicine Advisory Committee comprised of local leaders in the art community and Mayo Clinic staff. Through this Advisory Committee, Mayo partners with local art institutions and organizations to ensure the integrity and quality of the program.

Dr. Pietan also led the organization in the design and implementation of the "Art at the Bedside" program. The program began in Mayo's out-patient dialysis unit, where many patients spent long hours in treatment. Professional performers and artists spent time drawing, singing and performing for patients. Thanks to its overwhelming success, all units now look forward to having the program available campus-wide.

Dr. Pietan is committed to his family and his community. He serves on numerous community boards, has been extensively published and was instrumental in establishing the Mayo Clinic community health career scholarship program, now in its fifteenth year.

MAYO CLINIC

Mayo Clinic provides medical diagnosis, treatment and surgery using a team of specialists. Opened in 1986, the Jacksonville facility was the first extension of Mayo Clinic beyond Rochester, Minnesota. Programs in medical education and research strengthen Mayo's patient-centered activities. Mayo Clinic is currently constructing a new hospital at its main campus on San Pablo Road. This will enable a fully integrated inpatient and outpatient practice, greatly increasing the efficiencies and convenience for many of its patients.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OF JACKSONVILLE HONORS RICHARD SHANNONHOUSE

Richard D. Shannonhouse has been the Director of Pastoral Services at Memorial Hospital Jacksonville since 2000.

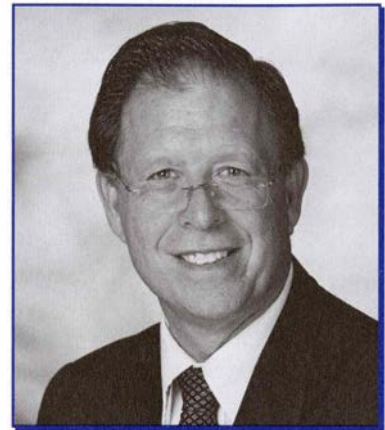
Born and raised in Virginia, Dick earned his B.A from North Carolina Wesleyan College. He was inducted into ODK, a National Honorary Society and was in the second class inducted into the North Carolina Wesleyan College Athletic Hall of Fame. Following college, Dick worked as a golf pro at Greenwood Country Club in Greenwood, South Carolina and then went on to attend Duke University Divinity School. Following graduation, he spent a year at Duke Medical Center and went on to serve a pastorate in Woodland, North Carolina. Dick then moved to Denver where he completed a two year program in clinical pastoral education. He has been serving as a hospital chaplain ever since.

In the past, Dick has been active or supported a range of worthy organizations including Hospice, United Way, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Hubbard House, University of North Florida, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Terry Parker Band, Ronald McDonald House, River City Band, Children's Home Society, and Green Cove Springs United Methodist Church. He has served on various boards and committees and feels fortunate to live and work in the beautiful setting of North Florida.

Dick and his wife, Sandra, have a daughter, Laura. When he has the time, he plays golf, likes to travel, read and visit Laura in Gainesville to support the Florida Gators.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL JACKSONVILLE

Memorial Hospital has always created a tradition of caring for its patients and the community. Memorial Hospital was founded in 1969 as a full-service, acute care hospital. With a dedicated staff of more than 1800 employees and 850 physicians, Memorial is committed to providing patients with a comprehensive range of medical and surgical services. The facility has recently completed several expansion projects including the new Cyberknife Cancer Center, renovation of four operating rooms featuring flat panel digital and telemedicine conference capability, new MRI equipment, expansion of our cardiac cath labs, emergency department and the implementation of the first robot bar-coded drug dispensing system in the Jacksonville area. Additionally, as part of our dedication to improve customer satisfaction, Memorial has implemented a complimentary valet service. This has proven to be a great success!



RICHARD SHANNONHOUSE
DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES,
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OF
JACKSONVILLE

"As the leader of Pastoral Care at Memorial Hospital, Richard Shannonhouse has shown exemplary skill in ministering to others during their greatest time of need. He personifies the caring attitude we all strive for in the challenging healthcare environment."

JAMES B. WOOD,
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL JACKSONVILLE

MILLER ELECTRIC COMPANY HONORS LINDA SPARKS



LINDA SPARKS, ED.D.

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, ACADEMIES OF
ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY

"Linda is one of the hardest working and dedicated people I know. She reinvented and significantly improved our electrical training program and developed creative approaches to generating new sources of revenue.

She is a skilled and tenacious lobbyist, respected in legislative circles as she develops and defends our political agenda.

Linda is smart and powerful, yet also kind and compassionate with strong family values. Her character envelops everything she does and we at Miller Electric Company are proud to honor her this year."

RON AUTREY,
PRESIDENT,
MILLER ELECTRIC COMPANY

Dr. Linda Sparks is the Regional Executive Director of the Academies of Electrical Technology. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of North Florida (UNF) with her BA degree. After earning an MS in Environmental Science, she achieved her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from UNF.

Linda has taught high school biology and ecology, and also taught education courses at the University of North Florida. She received the Most Outstanding Teacher Award in 1987, Most Valuable Teacher Award for 1989 and 1992, and was a finalist for the Science Teacher Presidential Award. Linda has authored science textbook materials for Prentice-Hall, Allyn & Bacon and numerous published articles.

While serving as an elected member of the Duval County School Board, Linda's accomplishments included shepherding a case through to the U.S. Supreme Court to win the right of high school graduates to offer religious messages at their commencement ceremonies. She received Jacksonville's "Elected Official of the Year" award in 1999. Linda has served on many local and state commissions, including the Governor's Public School Construction Commission and the Professional Standards Task Force for Florida's Commissioner of Education.

Under Linda's leadership, the Academies of Electrical Technology are rising to world-class status. Additional revenue streams have multiplied the operating budgets for Jacksonville, Gainesville, and Panama City academies. The Jacksonville academy's budget has increased by over 382% in just 3.5 years! She obtained grant funding for many educational projects, including \$350,000 grid-connected solar arrays for Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, and Gainesville electrical academies. Offering career opportunities for many of Jacksonville's citizens, the Academy of Electrical Technology is achieving their vision of being the premier electrical training center in the nation.

Linda serves on two of Florida's Regional Workforce Boards: WorkSource and FloridaWorks. She is member of Rotary and is a member of Hibernia Baptist Church in Fleming Island. She lives in Orange Park Country Club with her husband, David. They have four grown children, Dave, Lisa, Jeremy, & Bobby.

MILLER ELECTRIC COMPANY

Miller Electric Company was founded in 1928 and continuously evolved and adapted to the ever-changing business environment. Today we are successfully operating in most of the Southeastern states, and providing a full range of electrical construction and maintenance services. We are also a leader in new markets such as voice and data networks and intelligent transportation systems. From heavy industrial projects to high tech data centers and large healthcare campuses, Miller Electric continues to provide "Quality Service Since 1928."

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Leah Barker	G. Nadine Carswell	Shirley T. Easters	Anthony Haines	Cynthia A. Irwin
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Carolann Mazza	Dianne E. Parker	Norma Shaughnessy	Kelly Vick	

ABOUT COMMUNITY

WE HELP PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

At Community Connections, we help people in need become independent, contributing members of our community. By connecting women, children and families with the services and resources they need to help overcome challenges and unfortunate circumstances, we restore opportunity and most importantly, hope, to those who need it most.

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

Since its founding close to 100 years ago, Community Connections has been providing safe housing alternatives to women, children and families. Community Connections' Homeless Housing programs provide housing, childcare and essential support services to individuals and families for up to 24 months. Case managers and counselors work closely with residents to help them become financially and emotionally self-sufficient. Job training and counseling services teach new skills so residents can secure jobs and, ultimately, access to permanent housing.

The Community Connections Housing Program serves approximately 300 families each year at three locations:

- The Florence N. Davis Center for Women and Children-Downtown
- Nia Terrace-Westside
- The Northeast Florida Housing Program-Westside and Clay County

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

At Community Connections, we provide children with quality, stimulating care in a safe environment. Not only is this good for the children, but it helps those parents struggling to improve themselves when they know their kids are being well taken care of.

- ***Florence N. Davis Child Development Center-*** serving children six weeks to 12 years of age, this is a state of the art child care program. Age-appropriate activities encourage positive and healthy development. Participants in the program include homeless and low-income children from the Davis Center, the I.M. Sulzbacher Center and Trinity Rescue Mission.
- ***After School Programs-***Community Connections provides after-school programs at eight sites in Jacksonville. Offering children the opportunity to improve educational and social development, they can receive supervised homework assistance, tutorial services and computer instruction. Kids can also participate in enrichment programs including Boy/Girl Scouts and the Jaguars' Honor Rows. A wide variety of arts & crafts, recreational activities and seasonal sports is offered at each location.
- ***Summer Camp-***Each year, approximately 1100 children between kindergarten age and 15 enjoy Community Connections' camp programs at eight locations. Camp includes athletic and recreational and enrichment activities.

CONNECTIONS

HELPING PARENTS BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE

For many reasons, parents often need help, training and support in order to be good parents to their children. Community Connections runs several program for parents:

- *Healthy Families Jacksonville* is a free, voluntary family support effort that assists families at risk for child abuse or neglect. Working with families in their own homes, Healthy Families will also accept any family with a newborn living in one of Duval County's targeted zip code areas.
- The *Parents As Teachers* program is a city-wide effort that helps parents become their child's first teacher.

VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS

Community Connections has established valuable partnerships with the developers and property managers of six affordable housing communities. In these residential settings, Community Connections runs programs to strengthen adults and children.

In addition to the after-school programs described above, Community Connections' partnership programs include:

- Adult literacy
- ABE/GED instruction
- Job preparation programs

SPECIAL LITERACY PROGRAMS

Community Connections is committed to breaking the cycle of family illiteracy by improving parents' educational and parenting skills.

- *Families Learning Together* targets adult high school drop-outs who want to complete their high school education. It is an intergenerational ABE and GED program offered at the A.L. Lewis Center on the northside and allows children to be educated on-site while their parents receive instruction.
- The *Ready to Work program* offers intensive care management and emphasizes positive parenting, education and employability skills. The program is run at Sable Palms Apartments, located in the Pine Forest area.

WE'RE COMMITTED TO BEING THERE

Community Connections has provided services and resources to the women, children and families of Jacksonville who have had no where else to turn for almost a century. We have changed over the years in order to stay responsive to their needs and help them become useful, contributing members of our community. It is our commitment to always be there. And to always help.

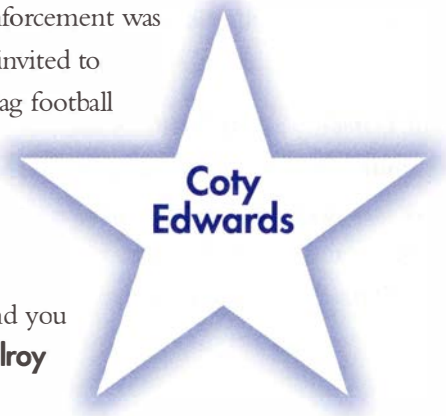


2006 RISING STARS

SPONSORED BY: CCJ BOARD MEMBERS

MATT BREUER, SUSAN BURNS, TAMI JONES, MARY MCELROY AND BRENDA TITUS

At 15, **Coty Edwards** was known for having a bad temper, fighting and being disrespectful to adults. One day, however, Coty decided to visit the **Community Connections' After-School Program at Courtney Manor**. He was respectful and participated in the day's activities. Staff observed that he was very good with the younger children, who responded well to him. The next day when Coty returned, he was assigned several tasks and he completed each with a smile. Coty's response to positive reinforcement was rapid, and during summer camp, he displayed excellent leadership skills. He was invited to become a counselor in training. He organized and coached Courtney Manor's flag football team, kept the activity center cleaned of trash, and resolved conflicts between the other youth. Additionally, Coty's participation in the program increased Courtney Manor's teen numbers by inspiring other youth to give the program a try. Now, Coty has been elected Vice President of the Community Connections' Teen Advisory Council. Coty, you are an inspiration to those around you and **CCJ Board Members Matt Breuer, Susan Burns, Tami Jones, Mary McElroy and Brenda Titus** are delighted to recognize your accomplishments.



2006 RISING STARS

SPONSORED BY:

DR. & MRS. GEORGE H. DORION

Gregory Castor thought that moving into a new community would mean that he would have a hard time making new friends. Concerned about the neighborhood, Gregory's family had instructed him to stay in their apartment so that he could avoid mixing with the wrong crowd. Fortunately, Gregory noticed the **Community Connections' After-School Program at Nia Terrace** and was able to get involved. He immediately made new friends who shared his interests: reading, experiencing new things, and sharing knowledge with others. For example, one of Gregory's favorite things to do is visit the Museum of Science and History. He is very interested in large sea creatures. During a recent visit to MOSH, Gregory ended up being the tour guide, explaining to the rest of the youth how manatees and whales survive. **Dr. & Mrs. George H. Dorion** salute Gregory for his accomplishments -- he is truly a Rising Star!



Gregory
Castor

SPONSORED BY:

JOHN, LINDA AND LAURA FRANKLIN

Nhu-Y "E" was born in Vietnam and has lived in the United States since she was five. Now 16 years old, "E" is a junior at the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts where she is an accomplished violinist. "E" has served as a volunteer in the **Community Connections' After-School Program and Summer Camp Program at Sable Palms** for the past two years. "E" is good with the children and eager to help whenever needed. She also provides translation services to other families in the community facing language barriers. She gladly helps where needed and shows that she cares about others. "E" often volunteers at special events and still finds time to work on her personal goals and keep her future on track. Although she is not sure if she wants to study education or psychology, she does plans to attend a university. **The Franklins** proudly recognize Nhu-Y "E" - she is truly a Rising Star!



Nhu-Y "E"

SPONSORED BY:

STEPHEN FRANKLIN

Ayshea Irby graduated from **Community Connections' GED Program at the A.L. Lewis Center** and obtained employment at the **Florence N. Davis Child Development Center** as a Child Care Specialist. Her love of books and reading to the children motivated her to take advantage of a job opportunity as a Library Assistant for the City of Jacksonville. After one year in the position, she was promoted to Clerical Support Specialist. Currently, she not only works at the Jacksonville Public Library, she is enrolled at FCCJ where she is working on her Associates Degree. Ayshea is the proud mother of two sons, Dante (7 years old) and Christopher (4 months). Dante is in the first grade at St. Pius V Catholic School, where he has received awards for perfect attendance and merit awards for academic performance. Christopher is enrolled in the child care program at the Davis Center. For climbing the ladder of success and setting such a wonderful example for her children, **Stephen Franklin** proudly recognizes Ayshea as a Rising



Ayshea Irby

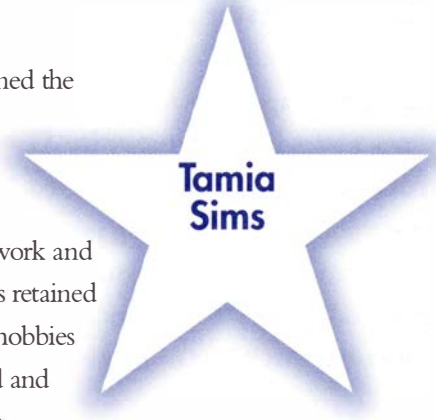
2006 RISING STARS

Star.

SPONSORED BY:

THE LEVENDITTISON FAMILY

Ten year old **Tamia Sims** is a fifth grader at Enterprise Academy. When she joined the **Community Connections' After-School Program at Lindsey Terrace**, she was very quiet and kept to herself. It didn't take long for that to change. Today, Tamia is outgoing and one of the most popular girls in the program. While such a dramatic change can sometimes cause problems such as a loss of interest in school work and sometimes even behavioral problems, this has not been the case with Tamia. She has retained her focus on her school work and her conduct is an example to her peers. Tamia's hobbies include drawing and watching television, among other things. She also loves to read and read 25 books over the summer. A very creative young lady, Tamia loves everything about fashion and one day hopes to become a hair stylist and eventually own her own business. Great going, Tamia, **The Levendittison Family** proudly salutes you as a Rising Star!



SPONSORED BY:

JIM AND SUSAN MAIN

Although **Terry Jennings** (age 12) failed to promote twice at Garden City Elementary, he is now one of the most successful students in **Community Connections' After-School Program at Kendall Court**. When Terry first came to summer camp, it was noted that he needed help with behavioral issues but he did enjoy helping others. Terry was asked to be a Youth Helper. He emptied trash, ran errands, set up tables, and generally performed any task requested - with a smile on his face. During his time in the after-school program, Terry realized his leadership abilities and that has helped change his outlook. At the end of the last school year, Terry was given a challenge by his School Guidance Counselor that if he improved his overall citizenship and maintained a "C" average, she would recommend him for the Fast-Forward Program (for promotion to the appropriate grade level). We are proud to report that Terry Jennings met the challenge and is now on grade level for his age. Terry is making A's and B's - he attends the Kendall Court After-School program daily, completes his homework, and his behavior is excellent! For his hard work and dedication to reaching his goals, **Jim and Susan**



2006 RISING STARS

Main salute Terry as a Rising Star.

SPONSORED BY:

PERDUE OFFICE INTERIORS, INC.

Ciaria Williams left an abusive relationship and moved to Cleveland Arms Apartments with her four boys ranging in age from 1-1/2 to 9 years. She really struggled to keep things going. She had no transportation and even had her lights cut off at one time because she couldn't make the payment. Despite her circumstances, Ciaria kept her head held high and continued to try to provide for her family. She enrolled in the **Community Connections' Healthy Families Program** and that has helped her to turn her life around. She is now working a full-time job making \$13.00 per hour and has been one of her company's top sales associates. She purchased a car and is now in the process of paying off all of her bills. Ciaria's goal is to save enough money so that when her bills are paid and her credit rating has improved that she will be able to find a better place to live for herself and her children. **Perdue Office Interiors** proudly recognizes Ciaria - it is easy to see her dedication to improving her life and the lives of her children. Keep up the good work, Ciaria, you are a Rising Star!



**Ciaria
Williams**

SPONSORED BY:

MARY ELLEN SMITH

While **Jabari Hymon** (age 11) has been exposed to many negative influences in his life, he manages to find support at **Community Connections' After-School Program at Nia Terroce**. If the door of the Community Center is open, Jabari is there and always with a smile on his face that can brighten any room. Jabari likes to demonstrate his leadership skills and the staff counts on him to lead his peers in the right direction. Jabari has already vowed that he will never smoke, drink, or end up in jail. He also knows that he wants to go to college so he can be a businessman. He especially enjoys the mock interviewing and hiring techniques practiced in the Community Connections' After-School Program. All those who know Jabari believe he will accomplish all of his goals while inspiring others to be their best! For your dreams and for your goals, Jabari, **Mary Ellen Smith** salutes you as a Rising Star!



**Jabari
Hymon**

SPONSORED BY:

TAPESOUTH, INC., SUSAN NORMAN

Bryanna McDonald is a third grade student at Crown Point Elementary School. She attends **Community Connections' After-School Program at Leigh Meadows**. Bryanna is an excellent student, a good citizen and is proud to say she attends school every day. Last year, Bryanna was selected as an Outstanding Citizen at her school. She also received a Character Award and maintains a place on the Honor Roll year after year. Bryanna is a member of the Girl Scout Troop at Leigh Meadows and has successfully completed three years of scouting. Bryanna is an asset to the after-school program. She always encourages her peers to excel in the program and helps tutor



**Bryanna
McDonald**

2006 RISING STARS

students who are struggling academically. Bryanna demonstrates the academic ability and behavior needed to successfully reach all of her goals. Everyone at **TAPESOUTH, Inc.**, is proud to sponsor Bryanna as a Rising Star!

SPONSORED BY:

TAPESOUTH, INC., SUSAN NORMAN

Stanley Downer is a tenth grader at Robert E. Lee High School. He participates in the **Community Connections' After-School Program at Courtney Manor**. Stanley doesn't mind the time spent on school work in order to maintain his 3.0 grade point average. He also participates in the Navy ROTC program and works part-time. The eldest of five children, Stanley happily assists in supporting his family. As a leader in the after-school program and to set an example for his younger siblings, Stanley plans to join the United States Navy after graduating from high school in order to earn tuition money to enable him to go to college. Stanley, for your hard work and determination to succeed, **TAPESOUTH, Inc.** salutes you as a Rising Star!



**Stanley
Downer**

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At 39 years of age, **Kenneth Drayton** found himself without a high school diploma and working low-paying jobs. A devoted father, he realized that he was not setting a good example for his child so he decided to do something about it. Kenneth's first step was to sign up for the ABE/GED testing done at **Community Connections' A. L. Lewis Center**. His score was low, so he was placed in the Adult Basic Education (ABE) class, but he was determined to succeed. Kenneth worked a 40-hour per week job at night and attended classes during the day, generally coming straight from work. In April, at a special graduation ceremony at the A. L. Lewis Center, Kenneth received his high school diploma while family and friends cheered his accomplishment. **TAPESOUTH, Inc.**, joins in celebrating Kenneth's accomplishments - he is definitely a Rising Star!



**Kenneth
Drayton**

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THE VESTCOR COMPANIES

Dezmond Upshaw is a fifth grader at Crown Point Elementary. He attends **Community Connections' After-School Program at Leigh Meadows**. Dezmond lives with his mother, brother and one-year-old sister. He takes great pride in his role as a big brother. Dezmond has maintained A's and B's all four years in school. He has received numerous awards and commendations for his citizenship. He also scored the highest of the fourth graders on the FCAT at Crown Point Elementary. Dezmond is a very well-mannered young man and a pleasure to be around. At the age of 10, Dezmond has shown focus and determination to become successful in life. **The Vestcor Companies** proudly recognize Dezmond Upshaw as a



**Dezmond
Upshaw**

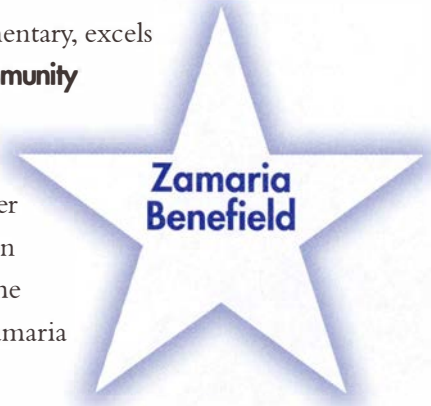
2006 RISING STARS

Rising Star.

SPONSORED BY:

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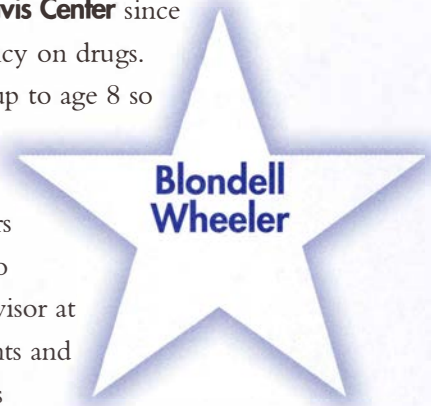
Zamaria Benefield, a third grade Honor Roll student at San Mateo Elementary, excels in academics and service to the community. Zamaria participates in the **Community Connections' After-School Program at Kendall Court**. A book lover and a journaler, Zamaria is a member of the Corrine Brown Book Club and the Kendall Court Book Club. Zamaria is also very thoughtful of others. After hearing the news of Hurricane Katrina, Zamaria donated clothing to children victimized by the storm. This summer, she gave more clothing and food to the Salvation Army during Kendall Court's "Give Back To Others" campaign. Zamaria participates in many enrichment activities at Kendall Court such as the Girl Scouts and the Kendall Court Step Team and Dance Team. She is also on the Praise Team at her church, plays on the community soccer team, and has won over six pageants using her talents of song and dance. Congratulations, Zamaria, you are a role model and **VyStar Credit Union** is proud to recognize you as a Rising Star.



SPONSORED BY:

WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Blondell Wheeler has resided at **Community Connections' Florence N. Davis Center** since November 2005. A former cocaine addict, she is now free from her dependency on drugs. The Davis Center is a dormitory-style residence and boys are only accepted up to age 8 so Blondell's sons are currently living with her mother while she moves forward with her plans to build a future for herself and her children. To do so, Blondell is participating in all of the classes Community Connections offers and completing her Pathway to Self-Sufficiency plan. In 2006, Blondell was so successful at achieving her program goals that she was hired as a Resident Advisor at the Davis Center. Currently, she shares her positive attitude with other residents and particularly enjoys helping the young mothers at the Davis Center. Blondell is such a good speaker that she hopes to one day have a career that includes motivational speaking. This year, Blondell was selected as one of the "Faces" for the United Way Faces Campaign. **Waste Management Charitable Foundation** is proud to sponsor Blondell Wheeler as a Rising Star.



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